

# The Town Crier

A Newsletter from the Town of Warrenton



## Town Offers Seminar On "Preserving Community Character"

Just like the westward bound pioneers of old, large retail and restaurant chains are blazing the way for rapid development in Warrenton. If franchise developers are right, then restaurants such as IHOP, Outback Steakhouse and Ruby Tuesday are only the first to find Warrenton an appealing site for business.

However, Town planners are concerned about the effect of the "one design fits all" mentality of national chains on the visual look and feel of rural Warrenton. Many residents share the same concern.

According to Edward T. McMahon, an expert on land conservation and growth management, Warrenton doesn't have to roll over and accept the generic look of chains like Home Depot, Wal-Mart and McDonalds.

The Town of Warrenton has invited Mr. McMahon to provide a free seminar to Warrenton residents on **Wednesday, May 11, at 7:00 PM at the Highland School Auditorium**. His presentation entitled, "Dollars and Sense of Preserving Community Character," will highlight the efforts of communities across the United States to preserve those qualities that make each a unique place to live and work.



Edward T. McMahon

Mr. McMahon is a nationally renowned authority on sustainable development, land conservation and urban design. He is a senior resident fellow for the Urban Land Institute, a national organization that specializes in helping communities manage growth and preserve local identity. He's had a track record of assisting communities like

Warrenton in curbing the ugliness of rapid commercial development. His premise is that with the right strategy, Warrenton can insist that new commercial businesses tailor their buildings to fit the Town's flavor.

McMahon says that commercial strips and cookie-cutter

*Continued on page 2*

## Mosby Museum and Visitors Center Gain Momentum

If the "Grey Ghost" haunts his old home town of Warrenton, he's most likely smiling at some recently completed renovations to Brentmoor, his home on Main Street. The John Singleton Mosby Museum Foundation has been hard at work drumming up money to restore the house and create a museum for its namesake. Funds raised so far have been used for exterior renovations.

"The exterior stucco has been completely restored and painted to its original color, as has most of the windows and exterior trim," reports Chuck Young, Director of the foundation. "The front and side porch roofs have been replaced, too."

Young says the house is being restored to its original 1859 look, though Col. Mosby didn't live there until 1875. Early in the project, the house's chimneys were reconstructed to their original grandeur, upper roofs were restored, a system of French drains was installed, and all asbestos was removed. Later, experts peeled away layers and layers of paint to determine the home's original color.

With the exterior work expected to be completed in the spring, the foundation is working to secure donations and grants to begin interior renovations, and has hired an engineering firm from Winchester to assist. The firm has special expertise in historic restoration projects.

Brentmoor was acquired by the Town of Warrenton in 1999. It had been vacant for a decade, and the property was in jeopardy of being sold for development. The Town wanted to preserve it and restore it as a museum and educational center, and use it as a catalyst for promoting heritage tourism. Currently, the foundation has more than 250 dues-paying members, and has secured donations and grants for the restoration from over 750 contributors.

Young says the interior engineering systems (electrical, plumbing, heating and air conditioning) are in need of a complete overhaul. These systems will need to be brought up to modern museum standards in order for the museum to gain accreditation.

*Continued on page 2*

***“PRESERVING COMMUNITY,”****continued from page 1*

corporate designs can homogenize the visual character of a community by imposing a uniform look. This destroys the uniqueness of places like Warrenton. He likes to quote Winston Churchill on the topic: “We shape our buildings and, afterward, our buildings shape us.”

McMahon has helped communities like Gaithersburg, MD, which insisted that a Target store build a two-story structure with visual appeal rather than its standard “big box” design. The result was less land use and better accessibility to foot traffic. In downtown Annapolis, MD, planners

insisted that a McDonalds franchise construct its building to look more like the period and style of adjacent businesses. The restaurant complied, and the resulting structure looks more like one of the post-colonial storefronts along Main Street in Warrenton than a generic franchise restaurant. In Chesterfield, VA, officials insisted that a Burger King restaurant build its structure to look like other red brick colonial buildings in the area. McMahon also is concerned about sign control.

McMahon has authored ten books on growth-related topics, and more than 150 articles. The Town Council urges everyone to plan now to attend his presentation and learn how Warrenton can preserve its visual charm. ■

***“MOSBY MUSEUM,” continued from page 1***

“The company we’re working with has done this kind of thing before,” Young said. “They know how to hide air registers and sprinklers so as not to deter from the home’s period look.”

Nationally known interior designer (and local resident) Barry Dixon will be helping to restore the interior of Brentmoor to its period look. Once completed, the house will be opened to the public as a “designer show house,” where people can view Mr. Dixon’s work and see Brentmoor as it looked in 1859.

While restoration work is underway, the foundation is building its collection of Mosby memorabilia for exhibit. It also is collecting items related to General Eppa Hunton, who bought Brentmoor from Col. Mosby in 1877 while serving as a U.S. Congressman.

“General Hunton was a home-grown Warrentonian, so we’re interested in his role at Brentmoor too,” Young said.

Young is home-grown himself, having been raised in Warrenton. With his degree in history, and interest in historic Warrenton, he is the foundation’s first full-time employee. Young is enthusiastic about the museum development. He says he hopes the museum will open in 2006.

For more information on the John Singleton Mosby Museum Foundation, call Chuck Young at (540) 351-1600, or go to [www.mosbymuseum.org](http://www.mosbymuseum.org).

**New Visitor Center Coming Into View**

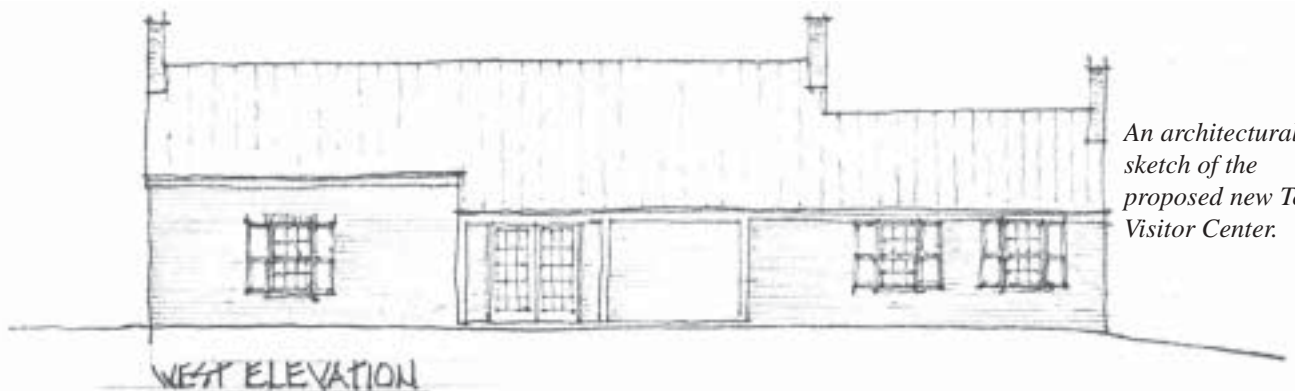
Immediately behind Brentmoor (at the corner of Calhoun and Horner Streets) is the Town of Warrenton’s Visitor Center. Currently housed in a construction trailer, the Town hopes to begin constructing a new building on the site soon. The Warrenton architectural firm of Hinckley, Shepherd, Norden, PLC, designed the Visitor Center for the community pro bono.

The Town has received a \$550,000 Federal grant to begin construction of the new building, but the cost of construction has almost doubled since the grant was approved several years ago. The Town is now working to secure another Federal grant to finish the funding.

The Mosby Foundation is overseeing the Visitor Center project. Chuck Young is particularly excited about plans for an 80-seat education center in its basement. The center will be used to tie educational programs to the museum, something Young says is unique. There are few other centers like it.

Young says that with good weather and funding, the new Visitor Center should open toward the end of 2005, or at the latest Spring 2006.

“We hope to start construction as soon as the grant funds have been received,” he says. “Right now the bids are ready to go out for the construction.” ■



*An architectural sketch of the proposed new Town Visitor Center.*

## Town Council Committee Grapples With Parking

*In response to longstanding questions about the adequacy of short and long-term parking in Old Town Warrenton, Mayor George Fitch last September established a Council Committee headed up by Councilman Sparky Lewis (Ward Five) to study the issue and report its findings to the Council for action. This is the first of a series of Town Crier reports.*

Ask many Warrenton residents what single issue they feel needs the greatest attention from Town officials, and they'll say without a pause, "parking." There is a strong public perception that finding parking in Old Town is a serious challenge. While the hustle and bustle of Main Street activity does keep most street-side parking spaces full for much of the day, studies actually show that there are plenty of parking spaces in Warrenton, just not where everyone wants them.

At any given time during the day, about 20% of Warrenton's 1,000 parking spaces are vacant. But because most people come to Warrenton for Main Street, the percentage of vacancies there is less. This problem has been a concern of the Town Council for many years. Council members are concerned that parking difficulties frustrate visitors to Warrenton, and ultimately can have an effect on Old Town businesses.

Behind the scenes, Town officials are making progress on the parking issue. There have been several studies conducted, much discussion on how to improve the situation and some early re-allocations of long and short-term parking resources.

Last December members of the Town Council's Parking Committee met to hear from several experts on improving traffic flow in communities such as Warrenton. One guest was Maxine Brown, zoning administrator for the Town of Culpeper.

### A Sister Community Deals with Parking

The Town of Culpeper has faced the same parking issues as has the Town of Warrenton. Public perception that parking is a problem has fueled a lot of efforts to improve the situation. Ms. Brown, who has worked for the Town of Culpeper for twenty years, explained Culpeper's approach.

"Culpeper has a Parking Authority that was created in 1976 by the Virginia General Assembly," Brown told Council members. "It has had pretty good success over the years."

Brown said the Authority's main responsibilities are to (1) manage leased (permit) parking spaces, (2) budget for parking enforcement, maintenance and other operating expenses from the small income it gets from permit fees and tickets, and (3) monitoring changes in the Town of Culpeper which necessitate adjustments to the parking strategy.

Like Warrenton, Culpeper has not fully exhausted surface parking capacity. There is enough space left to discourage the town from building a parking garage, though Brown sees this as an inevitability in the future. Instead, the Authority has put considerable effort into re-allocating spaces to encourage better utilization. Early this year

Culpeper did away with reserved permit parking. Now it is first-come-first-served, though a permit is still necessary. This has encouraged better utilization of vacant spaces.

Culpeper's government workers have their own free parking areas, away from street parking, which is so vital to downtown merchants. A



decals system helps the town enforce proper use of these spaces. Brown said Culpeper also has put a lot of effort into improving its signage, in order to steer visitors to the best places to park.

Like Warrenton, Culpeper has about 1,000 public parking spaces to manage. The Authority has done a lot to stimulate usage of vacant spots, but Brown says people sometimes feel the same frustration. Their regular complaints are, "I have to walk too far," and "Parking is not available right in front of my building."

*The next issue of the "Town Crier" will report on recommendations made before the Parking Committee by Ed Risse of Synergy Planning, Inc. Mr. Risse lives in Warrenton and has spent much of his professional career working with builders and developers to create village and community environments where employees and visitors enjoy a high quality of life. He's authored several books and hundreds of studies on human settlement patterns. Parking is one of his areas of expertise. ■*



## "Shop Here Fauquier" Benefiting Our Local Community

Warrenton and Fauquier County residents and businesses will be introduced to a new program this month that highlights the benefits of local spending to the community. "Shop Here Fauquier" is a new initiative established through the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors and coordinated through the Fauquier County Department of Economic Development. It is designed to encourage local residents to support their community by purchasing products and services locally while also pointing out the benefits of buying locally.

The Fauquier County Department of Economic Development is currently establishing partnerships with local businesses, business organizations and media publications to promote the concept.

"Warrenton residents are especially poised to benefit from this program as it obviously helps the local economy," said Warrenton Town Manager, Ken McLawhon.

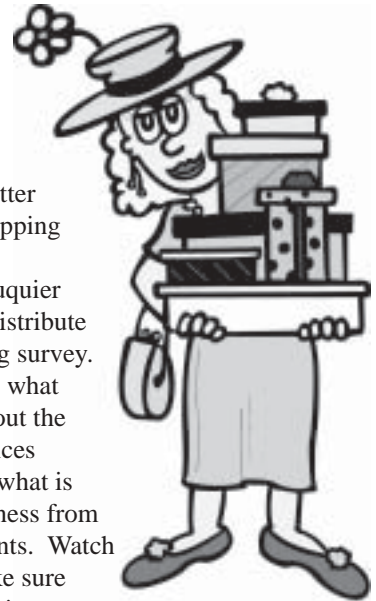
A web site is in the planning stage that will be a resource tool for residents as another means to educate them about the benefits of buying locally.

"We have a lot of wonderful shopping options available in Fauquier County, and we want to make sure local residents are aware they exist," says Talmage Reeves, Director of Economic Development. "Our goal is to market Fauquier

County businesses and services in a way that makes it easier for locals to shop here instead of elsewhere."

As a first step to better understanding local shopping needs, the program, in partnership with the Fauquier Times-Democrat, will distribute a local resident spending survey. Its objective is to reveal what local residents think about the businesses and the services currently available and what is needed to increase business from Fauquier County residents. Watch for this survey, and make sure you have a voice in this important program.

For more information, contact Mary Prince at (540) 349-1231 or [mary.prince@fauquiercounty.gov](mailto:mary.prince@fauquiercounty.gov). ■



## E-Government in Warrenton Going Strong

The Town's new website has now been going strong for quite some time now. Have you visited the site recently? Here are highlights of some of the things you will find there at:

### [www.warrentonva.gov](http://www.warrentonva.gov)

◆ The ability to create your own profile using MyPages. This allows you to monitor and pay your real estate and personal property taxes, water accounts, business licenses



and to purchase vehicle decals. Payment methods include Visa/MasterCard as well as your personal checking account - with no service charge or convenience fee attached.

◆ The Town's FY2004 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the FY 2005 Town Budget for your review.

◆ A wide variety of forms that may be downloaded directly from the website, i.e. Business License Application, Zoning Permits, Building Permits, etc.

◆ Town Council meeting agendas and Council minutes archived from 1996 to present.

◆ A searchable Code of the Town of Warrenton.

◆ The Town's Help Desk. This allows you to communicate with your all Town Departments officials 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week.

◆ The latest news about what is going on in the Town.

◆ A daily crime report provided by the Police Department. ■

## Town Establishes Public Information Committee

This 8-page issue of the "Town Crier" is just one example of ongoing efforts by a newly constituted Public Information Committee of the Town Council to increase citizens' awareness of community news and information.

Following last May's local elections, the Mayor established a Public Information Committee of the Town Council. By October of 2004 the committee adopted a plan of action to help expand the flow of information to Town citizens by delivering accurate, interesting and useful news and information regarding Town affairs in timely and readily accessible formats.

"To the extent that this Committee is successful in communicating the workings of local government, Warrenton residents will have a clearer road map of progress on issues related to their interests," said Committee Chairman John Albertella, "They also will have a better understanding about how their tax dollars are being spent."

The goal of the Public Information Committee is to not only provide residents with everything they need to know to participate in the civic process, but equally important, to help motivate citizens to get involved in their community, and to think about and work for its future. The Committee's plan identifies a number of goals, strategies, tactics and procedures intended to augment present public information efforts by the Town of Warrenton.



The Committee identified three audiences to consider in achieving its purpose: Town citizens, the local media, and Town staff and governing bodies. The Committee will strive to accomplish the following:

- ◆ Provide information about relevant matters directly to the public, not necessarily deemed "newsworthy" by the local media;
- ◆ Provide local media with timely information about matters relevant to Town citizens and the public at large;
- ◆ Develop an internal system of information sharing, writing and reporting that will help accomplish committee goals.

In addition to the expanded "Town Crier" format, committee members have offered a number of suggestions:

- ◆ Timely media releases on key topics to the local print news outlets;
- ◆ Preparation of background packages of information on key topics for distribution to the local media via media editorial meetings;
- ◆ Posting timely Council/ARB/PC/BZA meeting schedules and minutes on the Town website ([www.warrenton.va.org](http://www.warrenton.va.org));
- ◆ Making architectural, navigational and content improvements to the website over the coming months. ■

## Water Plant Requests Your Assistance



The staff at the Town's water treatment plant requests your assistance during the month of May. Please be conscientious in your water use. The treatment plant is in the middle of an upgrade project to increase the capacity and meet the growing demands of the community.

During the month of May the plant will only be able to operate at 75%, which will require the staff to man the plant 24-hours-a-day instead of the current 15 hours. The Town does not anticipate any problems, but any help to reduce the hours of operation is appreciated, and provides insurance that all needs are met. Thanks for your assistance. ■

## Warrenton's Farmers' Market

*Offering a Taste of the Country...*

Fresh Vegetables ● Fruits ● Meats ●  
Cheeses ● Eggs ● Baked Goods ●  
Potted Plants ● Cut Flowers ● Herbs  
Spices ● Jams, Jellies & Honey ●  
Natural Soaps ● Organic Products



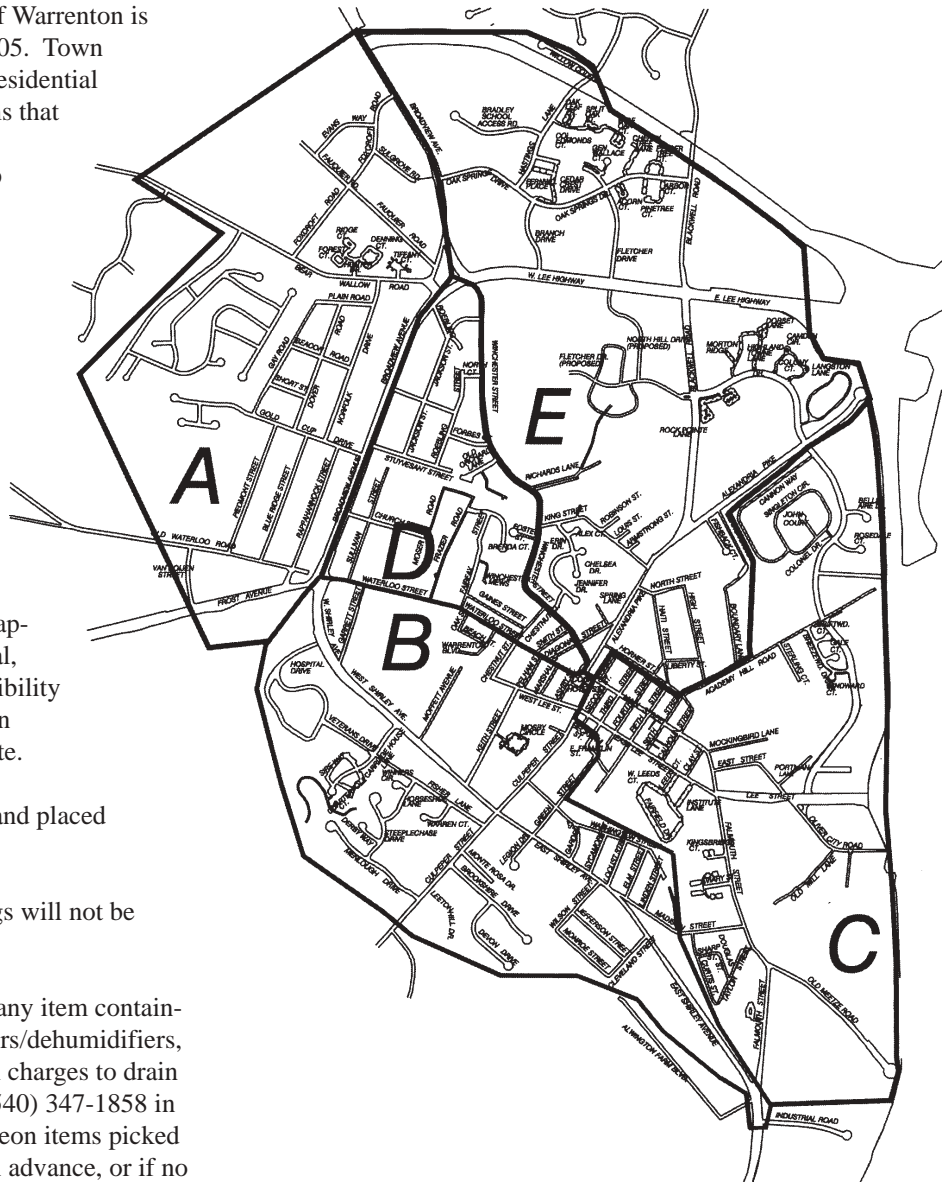
*Every Saturday 7:00 a.m. - noon, starting April 16, at the corner of 5th & Lee Streets. Wednesday Market 7:00 a.m. - noon, starting May 11, at Court Street in Old Town Warrenton. Contact info: Warrenton Department of Community Development (540) 347-2405.*

## Time For Spring (Yard) Cleaning!

Feeling ready to get outside in the nice weather and clean up the yard after a rough winter? Go for it!

Spring Clean-Up Week for the Town of Warrenton is scheduled for the week of April 18 - 22, 2005. Town trucks will provide extra collections in all residential areas to pick up trash, refuse and other items that cannot be handled on the regular weekly schedule. Here are a few guidelines to help you get the most out of this service:

- ◆ All items are to be placed on the street line by 8:00 AM of the day scheduled for your area. Sorry -- we are unable to make return trips.
- ◆ All trash and refuse must be placed in proper containers. Tree trimmings and brush must be placed separately. Small clippings from bushes or shrubs should be bagged and placed with regular refuse.
- ◆ If you hire a private contractor or landscaping company to do tree trimming or removal, remember that it is the contractor's responsibility to haul the trimmings and brush away. Town collection crews cannot dispose of this waste.
- ◆ All metal must be separated from wood and placed separately.
- ◆ Dirt, rocks, sod, old stumps and large logs will not be picked up.
- ◆ There will be a \$10 fee for collection of any item containing Freon (air conditioning units, humidifiers/dehumidifiers, etc.). This is the amount the County landfill charges to drain the Freon. You must call Public Works at (540) 347-1858 in advance and make arrangements to have Freon items picked up and the fee paid. If the fee is not paid in advance, or if no arrangements have been made, the item will be left.
- ◆ This year there will be some changes to what will be picked up. The Town will no longer pick up TVs, monitors, copiers and paint. These items must be recycled at the County landfill. There is a fee to drop some of these items off there. You can do so only on certain days of the month. For more information on taking any of these items to the landfill, or for the schedule, call the Fauquier County Waste Management Office at (540) 347-6811. If any of these items are set out during Clean-Up Week, they will not be picked up.
- ◆ If you have paint cans that are empty and dried up, remove the lids and place them out with your regular refuse collection. ■



### Schedule for Special Spring Clean-Up By Area

*(Please see area map)*

- Area A — Monday, April 18**
- Area B — Tuesday, April 19**
- Area C — Wednesday, April 20**
- Area D — Thursday, April 21**
- Area E — Friday, April 22**





# Historic District Register



## ARB Welcomes Two New Members

The Warrenton Town Council recently appointed two new members to serve on the Architectural Review Board.

Mark DiGuilian is a 1970 Virginia Tech graduate and has lived in Warrenton since 1971. Mark is employed by the CIA and works at the Langley Headquarters. He and his family have previously owned two houses within the Historic District and currently reside on Washington Street. Mark was previously on the Board of the Notre Dame Academy in Middleburg and is currently a Member of the Vestry at St. James Episcopal Church in Warrenton.

Robert Thorsen is the owner of Thorsen Construction, which specializes in additions and remodeling primarily in Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. Robert was educated at VCU, Richmond, and Lord Fairfax Community College, Stephens City, VA. He has served as an Alexandria Commission on Affordable Housing board member. There he became technical advisor, seeking less expensive ways to build in the Historic District of Alexandria, and ways to provide more affordable housing for city workers. ■

## Learning About the Architectural Heritage of Warrenton

The Warrenton Historic District has been recognized for its "exceptional collection" of architecturally and historically significant resources by the State Historic Preservation Officer and Secretary of the Interior. It has been placed on both the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

The 1983 National Register nomination for the original district indicated a total of 323 contributing buildings, as well as 35 non-contributing primary buildings. These non-contributing buildings were less than 50 years old at the time of the Historic District's creation, and therefore were not eligible for consideration for historic or architectural significance.

The Historic District was expanded in 1990 and again in 1996 to include several historically significant properties outside the original boundaries. These include former Governor Smith's Monterosa, Leeton Hill, and Menlough, on the old Culpeper Road, along with several important early twentieth century houses on Winchester, Waterloo, and Falmouth Streets.

It is remarkable to have so many classic examples of the different architectural styles predominant in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century surviving in one locale. We suggest that you take a casual walk down Main Street, Culpeper Street, Winchester Street, or other streets within the

Historic District and look at the details and the workmanship that went into designing and constructing these wonderful houses and buildings. They have been well maintained by many generations of Warrenton residents.

## Federal Style

One of the earliest historic homes in Warrenton is Paradise (circa 1758), located at 158 Winchester Street. Another is the circa 1790 dwelling that is now part of the Joynes Funeral Home (25 North Third Street). Both are classic examples of Federal style architecture. Other Federal style buildings include the Thaddeus Norris-Samuel Chilton House at 50 Culpeper Street, Conway Grove at 101 Winchester Street, the Horner House at 66 Winchester Street, and the Thomas L. Moore House at 127 Culpeper Street.

## Second Empire Style

On Culpeper Street there are three excellent examples of the Second Empire style of Architecture, which refers to the reign of Napoleon III. These homes are the Emily Fair House (139 Culpeper Street), the Ullman House (157 Culpeper Street) and Judge Thomas Semmes House (191-193 Culpeper Street).

## Greek Revival Style

Main Street has two notable examples of the Greek Revival style, the John T. James House (122 Main Street) and the William Jennings House (188 Main Street). Menlough demonstrates both the Classical Revival and Greek Revival styles.

## Other Styles

Warrenton has several other classic styles as well. Moorhead (244 Blackwell Road) is the only remaining example of Georgian style architecture. The Dr. Martin Douglas House (158 Culpeper Street) is the best example of Queen Anne style architecture in Town. One of the best examples of Italianate architecture to be found anywhere is Mecca (circa 1859), located at 194 Culpeper Street. Warrenton also has excellent examples of Bungalow/Craftsmen and American Foursquare Architecture as well as Art Deco from the 1920's and 30's.

The ARB wishes to thank Cheryl Hanback Shepherd, a noted architectural historian, for her research and input on Warrenton's different architectural styles and their characteristics. ■



## Town Office Hours and Telephone Numbers

*Town Office Hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM*

*The area code is 540 unless otherwise noted.*

Finance Department .....	347-1102
Inspections .....	347-2405
Maintenance Shop .....	347-1858
Police Department	
Office of the Chief .....	347-1105
Police Station .....	347-1107
Non-emergency .....	347-1100
<b>Emergency .....</b>	<b>911</b>
Planning and Zoning .....	347-2405
Recycling .....	347-1858
Sewage Plant .....	347-1104
Town Hall .....	347-1101
Town Manager .....	347-4505
Utilities .....	347-6574
Water Bills .....	347-2678
Water Plant .....	347-1103
TTD/TTY .....	1-800-828-1120

**After Hours Water and Sewer Emergency  
347-1100**

## Holiday Refuse Schedule

### Memorial Day

**Monday, 5/30/05** — Holiday; no refuse collection.

**Tuesday, 5/31/05** — Monday's refuse collection.

**Wednesday, 6/1/05** — Tuesday's refuse collection plus recycling collections (cardboard, blue bags and newspapers.)

**Thursday, 6/2/05** — Regular refuse collection.

**Friday, 6/3/05** — Regular refuse collection.

### Independence Day

**Monday, 7/4/05** — Holiday; no refuse collection.

**Tuesday, 7/5/05** — Monday's refuse collection.

**Wednesday, 7/6/05** — Tuesday's refuse collection plus recycling collections (cardboard, blue bags and newspapers.)

**Thursday, 7/7/05** — Regular refuse collection.

**Friday, 7/8/05** — Regular refuse collection.

*There will be a refuse truck available at the Public Works Facility, 360 Falmouth Street, over the weekends and holidays.*

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A Newsletter From the

Town of Warrenton

P.O. Drawer 341

Warrenton, VA 20188-0341



### The Town Crier

is published by the Warrenton Town Council to inform citizens of the major events which affect our government and community.

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